

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

### **Claim Objections**

Claims 8-20 have been renumbered 20-32. Previous claim 20 (now 32) has been canceled.

### **Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102**

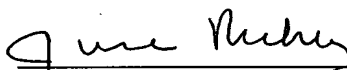
Claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 20-32 were rejected under 35U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Benzing (WO 00/51810). Applicant respectfully disagrees for the following reasons. Claims 1,6,23, and 24 all have the following method step neither taught nor described in the Benzing reference: positioning the cutting edge of the cutting device at a gap distance (d) above the anvil slightly less than or equal to the thickness of the cord reinforced component. Benzing teaches cutting the strip at a skive angle down to a depth (d) wherein d is defined in the specification on page 10, line 2-3 as being less than the total depth or thickness t of the strip. Thus, Benzing does not teach nor disclose positioning the cutting edge at a distance d above the anvil wherein d is defined as being slightly less than or equal to the thickness of the cord reinforced component.

Additionally, Applicant's claims 1 and 6 further state :cutting the strip at a skive angle **while** impacting a cord of the cord reinforced component, lifting said cord over the cutting edge as the strip is being cut forming a segment, the impacted cord being at a cut end adjacent the cutting path. Thus Applicant's strip is cut into a segment in a one step process, while Benzing teaches a two step cutting process using two different cutting devices at different times in order to cut the strip into a segment. Further, Benzing teaches a second cutting device 122 (at a high skive angle, approx 90 degrees) used to cut between the cords. Finally, Benzing does not teach nor describe impacting a cord of the cord reinforced component, lifting said cord over the cutting edge as the strip is being cut forming a segment, the impacted cord being at a cut end adjacent the cutting path. Instead, Benzing teaches cutting between two cords.

Appln No. 10/650,348  
Reply to Office Action of May 20, 2005

In light of this amendment, all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application are allowable. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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